

II. Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 3, 16, 17, 18 and 19, add new claims 25 - 30, and cancel claims 8 - 11 and 24 as follows:

1. (previously cancelled)

2. (previously amended) The system of claim 18 wherein the data record as to a financial instrument includes information corresponding to the MICR line on a check.

3. (previously amended) The A system as in of claim 18 wherein the capture facility includes means for receiving one or more than one check and the means for creating a visually perceptible record comprises an imager that creates an electronic image corresponding to information regarding a on the check financial instrument for transmission to the payee's depository bank.

4. (previously cancelled)

5. (previously amended) The system of claim 19 wherein information in a data record includes information corresponding to the MICR line on a check.

6. (previously amended) The system of claim 18 including a storage archive for maintaining the visually perceptible records located at a site remote from the capture facility and a communication link between the capture facility and the storage archive for delivering the records.

7. (previously amended) The system of claim 19 including 1) a storage archive for maintaining the visually perceptible records located at a site remote from the capture facility and 2) a communication link between the capture facility and the storage archive for delivering the records.

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

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11. (cancelled)

12. (previously amended) The system of claim 19 in which more than one cash letter is delivered into the payment system.

13. (previously amended) The system of claim 12 in which cash letters delivered into the payment system include electronic cash letters and paper cash letters.

14. (previously amended) The system of claim 18 in which an image of the visually perceptible record associated with a payment is returned to the payor in paper format.

15. (previously amended) The system of claim 19 in which an image of the visually perceptible record associated with a payment is returned to the payor in paper format.

16. (previously amended) The system of claim 18 in which an image of the visually perceptible record associated with a payment is returned to the payor in electronic format.

17. (previously amended) The system of claim 19 in which an image of the visually perceptible record associated with a payment is returned to the payor in electronic format.

18. (re-presented - formerly dependent claim 10) A system for effecting the deposit and submission into a payment system of a plurality of ~~paper and electronic~~ financial instruments issued from multiple, distinct payors' accounts maintained separately at one or more custodian institution, ^Sthe financial instruments payable to the same payee having an account at a payee's depository bank, and for effecting the transfer of the funds represented by the financial instruments from the payor's to the payee's account, comprising:

a) an item capture facility for receiving the financial instruments on behalf of the payee;

b) means at the capture facility for deriving funds transfer information from each of said instruments and converting said information into a data record as to each said instrument, ~~said means comprising a scanner for paper instruments and a communication means for receiving electronic~~

~~payment instructions~~, said data record including at least i) an identification of the payor, ii) an identification of the institution designated in the instrument as the custodian of payor's account from which funds are to be transferred, and iii) the amount of funds to be transferred; the capture facility further including means for processing a financial instrument in accordance with a truncation procedure in which a visually perceptible record of the financial instrument is created corresponding to the data record for said financial instrument;

c) means for associating information in the data record for each instrument with a record associated with the payor maintained in the payee's records of accounts;

~~d) means for creating a visually perceptible record for displaying information corresponding to the data record for each of said financial instruments;~~

de) an archive for storing at least one of a data record and a visually perceptible record for each of said financial instruments;

ef) a communication link interconnecting the capture facility, the payee's depository bank, and a payment system for transmitting information associated with the financial instruments;

fg) processing means for associating routing information and a unique document identifier with the data record for each instrument to provide a payment record for each instrument;

gh) a sorter i) for identifying payment records according to categories having criteria predetermined by the payment system, ii) for assembling

bundles of the payment records corresponding to the categories, and iii)
for associating said bundles with cash letter information; and

hi) a controller that coordinates the transmission of cash letter information from the capture facility to the payment system and the depository bank of the payee, and the delivery of the cash letters into the payment system ~~according~~ according to a predetermined schedule, ~~whereby~~ that determines when the payment of funds represented by the financial instruments, from the depository banks of the payors to the depository bank of the payee, is effected; ~~in accordance with the schedule,~~ and in which

i) the visually perceptible record of the financial instrument is transmitted to the custodian of the payor's account, and an image derived from the visually perceptible record is displayed in a periodic statement delivered on behalf of the custodian to the payor.

19. (re-presented - formerly dependent claim 11) A system for effecting the deposit and submission into a payment system of a plurality of ~~paper and~~ ~~electronic~~ financial instruments authorizing the transfer of funds from multiple, distinct payors' accounts to a unique payee's having an account maintained at the payee's depository bank and for effecting the transfer of the funds represented by the financial instruments, comprising:

a) an item capture facility for receiving the financial instruments on behalf of the payee;

b) means at the capture facility for deriving funds transfer information from each of said instruments and converting said information into a data

record as to each said instrument, said means comprising a scanner for paper instruments and a communication means for receiving electronic payment instructions, said data record including at least i) an identification of the payor, ii) an identification of the institution designated in the instrument as the custodian of payor's account from which funds are to be transferred, and iii) the amount of funds to be transferred; the capture facility further including means for processing a financial instrument in accordance with a truncation procedure in which a visually perceptible record corresponding to the data record of the financial instrument is created;

c) means for associating information in the data record for each instrument with a record associated with the payor maintained in the payee's records of accounts;

~~d) means for creating a visually perceptible record for displaying information corresponding to the data record for each of said financial instruments;~~

de) an archive for storing at least one of a data record and a visually perceptible record for each of said financial instruments;

ef) means for applying to a financial instrument an indorsement indicia on behalf of one or more of the payee and the depository bank of the payee;

fg) processing means for associating routing information and a unique document identifier with the data record for each instrument to provide a payment record for each instrument;

gh) a sorter i) for separating said payment records into predetermined payment categories, ii) for assembling bundles of said payment records into the categories and iii) for associating said bundles with cash letter information;

hi) a settlement communication link between the capture facility and a payment system for transmitting said bundles accompanied by the associated cash letters into said payment system to initiate payment, to the depository bank of the payee from the institution identified as the custodian of the payor's account, of the funds represented by each of said instruments; and

ij) a controller for coordinating i) the transmission of information between and among the capture facility, the depository bank of the payee and the payment system, ii) the delivery of the bundles and cash letters into the payment system, and for reporting funds transfer information to the payee and the depository bank of the payee, ~~whereby~~, according to a schedule predetermined by the payment system, in which the bundles and cash letters are delivered from the capture facility into the payment system and the payment of funds represented by the financial instruments, to the depository bank of the payee from the depository banks of the payors, is effected; and in which

i) the visually perceptible record of the financial instrument is transmitted to the custodian of the payor's account, and an image derived from the the visually perceptible record is displayed in a periodic statement delivered on behalf of the custodian to the payor.

20. (previously added) The system of claim 18 in which more than one cash letter is delivered into the payment system.

21. (previously added) The system of claim 20 in which cash letters delivered into the payment system include electronic cash letters and paper cash letters.


22. (previously added) The system of claim 18 in which the payment system to which cash letters are delivered is one of the Federal Reserve and a private clearing house.

23. (previously added) The system of claim 19 in which the payment system to which cash letters are delivered is one of the Federal Reserve and a private clearing house.

 24. (cancelled)

25. (new) The system of claim 18 in which the financial instrument is disposed of after a visually perceptible record of the financial instrument is created.

26. (new) The system of claim 19 in which the financial instrument is disposed of after a visually perceptible record of the financial instrument is created.

 27. (new) The system of claim 18 including 1) a storage archive for maintaining the visually perceptible records located at a site remote from the capture facility

and 2) a communication link between the capture facility and the storage archive for delivering the records.

28. (new) The system of claim 18 in which more than one cash letter is delivered into the payment system.

29. (new) The system of claim 28 in which cash letters delivered into the payment system include electronic cash letters and paper cash letters.

30. (new) A system as in claim 18 wherein the capture facility includes means for receiving one or more than one check and the means for creating a visually perceptible record comprises an imager that creates an electronic image corresponding to information on the check.